

**Remarks for Lt. Governor Cooney
2017 Montana Historic Preservation Governor's Award
for Outstanding Historic Preservation Stewardship to
Billings Public Schools
for the rehabilitation of McKinley and Broadwater Elementary Schools**

The 2017 Governor's award for Outstanding Historic Preservation Stewardship goes to the Billings Public Schools for their sensitive rehabilitation of historic McKinley and Broadwater Elementary Schools in Billings.

The historic character of each of the schools within their respective local neighborhoods has reflected the educational values of the Billings community for the past 111 years. One is an excellent example of Renaissance Revival Style and the other represents the Academic Renaissance style.

Governor Bullock and I often say that public education is one of our greatest equalizers. That no matter where you live or how much money is in your pocket, you have the right to a good public education and the opportunities it provides.

Classrooms and learning atmospheres can have an impact on students and their ability to learn, much like the teachers, the parents, and the resources available. All of these factors can contribute to ensuring Montana's students receive the best education.

Students at McKinley and Broadwater Elementary Schools now have greater opportunities to experience positive learning environments – both inside walls that have so much historical significance, and with expanded, updated, and safer classrooms.

CTA Architect Engineers were hired to design necessary additions and usher the rehabilitations of the two schools. Hardy Construction served as the general contractor for the Broadwater School and Dick Anderson Construction served as general contractor for the McKinley School.

The CTA designs included the removal of prior insensitive additions that no longer served useful functions. New larger additions were designed to fulfill the expanded needs of 21st century schools. The exterior stone, brick, and concrete walls were restored, patched, cleaned, and repointed. The 1970s windows were replaced with double-hung units which replicated the originals.

The interior trim and wood flooring were refinished and the once-closed stair towers were opened to the main floors. Complete seismic, electrical, mechanical, and fire protection systems now make the buildings fully up to modern expectations – for the next 100 years.

The renovation and saving of McKinley and Broadwater Elementary Schools once again demonstrates that historic preservation makes sense culturally, educationally, and economically.

It's important to both Governor Bullock and myself that Montana students are afforded with the best possible learning environments.

Billings Public Schools went above and beyond, and showed that they share that very same commitment to students in the Billings community.

Please join me in congratulating the Billings Public Schools for their vision and foresight as they receive the 2017 Montana Historic Preservation Governor's Award for Outstanding Historic Preservation Stewardship.

Here to accept the award are Lew Anderson of the Billings Public Schools. Coming to the stage with Mr. Anderson are Keith Rupert and Lesley Gilmore, of CTA Architects Engineers, and Bob Heberly, Vice-President of Dick Anderson Construction.

Let's give them a round of applause.

